



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ to conduct water survey on Bayous Lacombe, Big Branch and Cypress

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will be installing electronic monitoring equipment in conjunction with a water sampling survey on Bayous Lacombe, Big Branch and Cypress in St. Tammany Parish. The equipment will be installed October 6-10. The units will be located near Lacombe.

The survey is being conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect the water body. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the water body that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

Citizens are asked not to tamper with the equipment that will be mounted on rebar, fence posts, white PVC poles or buoys. During the survey, a bright red, non-toxic dye will be injected into the water. Citizens who notice the red coloration of the water should not be alarmed. The water body will return to its normal state and color by the end of the day. The dye is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the bayou. These patterns are used to establish sampling points for the survey and to aid in the development of a total maximum daily load, which is the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be released into a water body without causing it to become impaired and/or violate state water quality standards. TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact Kirk Manuel with DEQ at (225) 219-3513 or visit the website at

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/130/Default.aspx>.